1205 hrs.

At this stage, Shri Praful Patel and Shri Datta Maghe went back to their seats.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Please take your seats.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I have a list of 34 Members with me and I shall give every member a chance to speak.

[English]

I shall give chance to everybody provided you speak one by one.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI PRAFUL PATEL : We have been giving notices daily. *(Interruptions)*

Please take up this issue, we shall speak one by one.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : It has been decided, I shall give everybody a chance to speak.

SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT (NAGPUR) : Please take up our issue regarding Vidarbha and give chance to all the Members who want to speak on it.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : I will give chance to every hon. Member provided he has not spoken yesterday.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI DWARAKA NATH DAS (KARIMGANJ) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, weavers in my constituency of Karimganj in Assam are in a miserable condition, because of non-availability of yarn. Of course, there are many weavers' cooperative societies. The concerned Government Department supplies yarn to them and in return gets finished cloth, but supply of yarn is thoroughly irregular.

Sir, there is some unhealthy relation between the so-called cooperative society managers and the Government officials and as a result, the common weavers are deprived of their due shares. I personally visited some of the weavers' colonies and withnessed their tottering dwellings.

So, I suggest that all the weavers should get "weavers' card" and in lieu of it, they should get yarn regularly from the nearby Block headquarter and they should be allowed to sell the finished products to cooperative marketing societies themselves so that they could maintain their existence in befitting manner.

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE (CALCUTTA SOUTH): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I am not raising any political issue or any controversial issue, but I am raising a very important issue and the whole House need to consider this issue. I am raising the issue of thalassemia patients. Thousands of children die of thalassemia because of incomplete treatment. *...(Interruptions)*

I am raising a very important issue. Thousands of children suffering with thalassaemia died because of incomplete treatment. You will appreciate that though I have asked five or six questions in this Session, the reply of the Minister was as bitter as gourd. One patient needs twenty injections in a month, and the cost is about Rs. 2,000. It is very difficult for the common people to purchase this type of medicine. Without this medicine and the blood. It is very difficult to survive. That is why, most of the children, in the age group of five to ten, die because of incomplete treatment.

Please allow me, Sir, because this is a very important issue. The Minister said in his reply that-it is very shocking, though I have great regard for him-that thalassamia was not the most killer disease so far as the children in India were concerned. But so many children died because of the incomplete treatment. Now, the oral drug has been introduced in India successfully, specially in Mumbai, Calcutta, Chandigarh and Delhi under the name of Kelfer, but because of the Central Sales Tax, excise duty and customs duty, the price is very high. So you may take up the matter with the State Governments to exempt sales tax on this injection, particularly on this medicine, i.e., Kelfer. The Central Government already considered the exemption of customs duty, but not the excise duty and the Central Sales Tax.

[Translation]

...(Interruptions) Please let me speak.

[English]

That is why I request the Government to exempt this medicine from these duties so that the medicine will be available to the patent at Rs. 1,300 instead of at Rs. 2,000. Secondly, the Government has no national control board to control thalassaemia like Malaria and AIDS. The Government should Start a national Control board to control thalassaemia also. Thirdly, please try to give some free injections and free medicines for the thalassamia patients on humanitarian grounds. This is my humble request, and I think the House will appreciate this. The people are crying outside. I want justice from you. I think the Parliamentary Affairs Minister should react *...(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

You have always been raising such issues. It is not a political matter.

[English]

This is a very serious matter. May I request the Parliamentary Affairs Minister to take up the matter with the Health Ministry and the State Governments ?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA) : I will certainly convey this feeling of the hon. Member to the Minister concerned.